



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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**Burmaster becomes president-elect for education chiefs**

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster assumed the office of president-elect for the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) this week after being elected by unanimous ballot at the organization's annual meeting. The election brings Burmaster a three year term, which progresses from president-elect, to president, and then past president. Additionally, she will serve three years on the CCSSO Board of Directors.

The CCSSO is a non-partisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in their respective states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Schools, and five U.S. territories. The organization provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major education issues.

"I am honored to be elected by my peers to take a leadership role in this dynamic and energetic group of education leaders," Burmaster said. "The Council of Chief State School Officers provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and development of educational policy and programs that improve student achievement nationwide."

Burmaster was elected to the council's Board of Directors in 2004. She chairs the organization's Early Childhood Task Force and is a member of its International Education Committee. In other national leadership roles, Burmaster chairs the National Center for Learning and Citizenship, which advocates for service-learning, citizenship, and arts education as part of the Education Commission of the States, and serves on the board of directors for Pre-K Now, a project supported by the Pew Charitable Trust and others to advance high quality pre-kindergarten opportunities for all children.

"Wisconsin has a strong public educational system, and we share information and resources about our successes across the nation and internationally," Burmaster said. Since Burmaster took office in July

(more)

2001, the Department of Public Instruction has earned more than \$136.7 million in competitive federal grants and nearly \$4.6 million in private foundation grants to fund special projects for PK-12 education. Most recently, the department has received grants to build a comprehensive data system to meet federal, state, and local reporting requirements; expand Advanced Placement offerings especially in rural and economically disadvantaged urban schools; develop an after-school network; support research on early childhood education; expand civic-learning and citizenship education efforts; implement a model licensure program for urban principals; and expand international education and global studies.

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